

Fostering a Spirit of Generosity





Understanding Generosity

“To give and to be generous
are attributes of Mine; well i
s it with him that adorneth h
imself with My virtues.”

- Baha'u'lla

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Dimension of Generosity

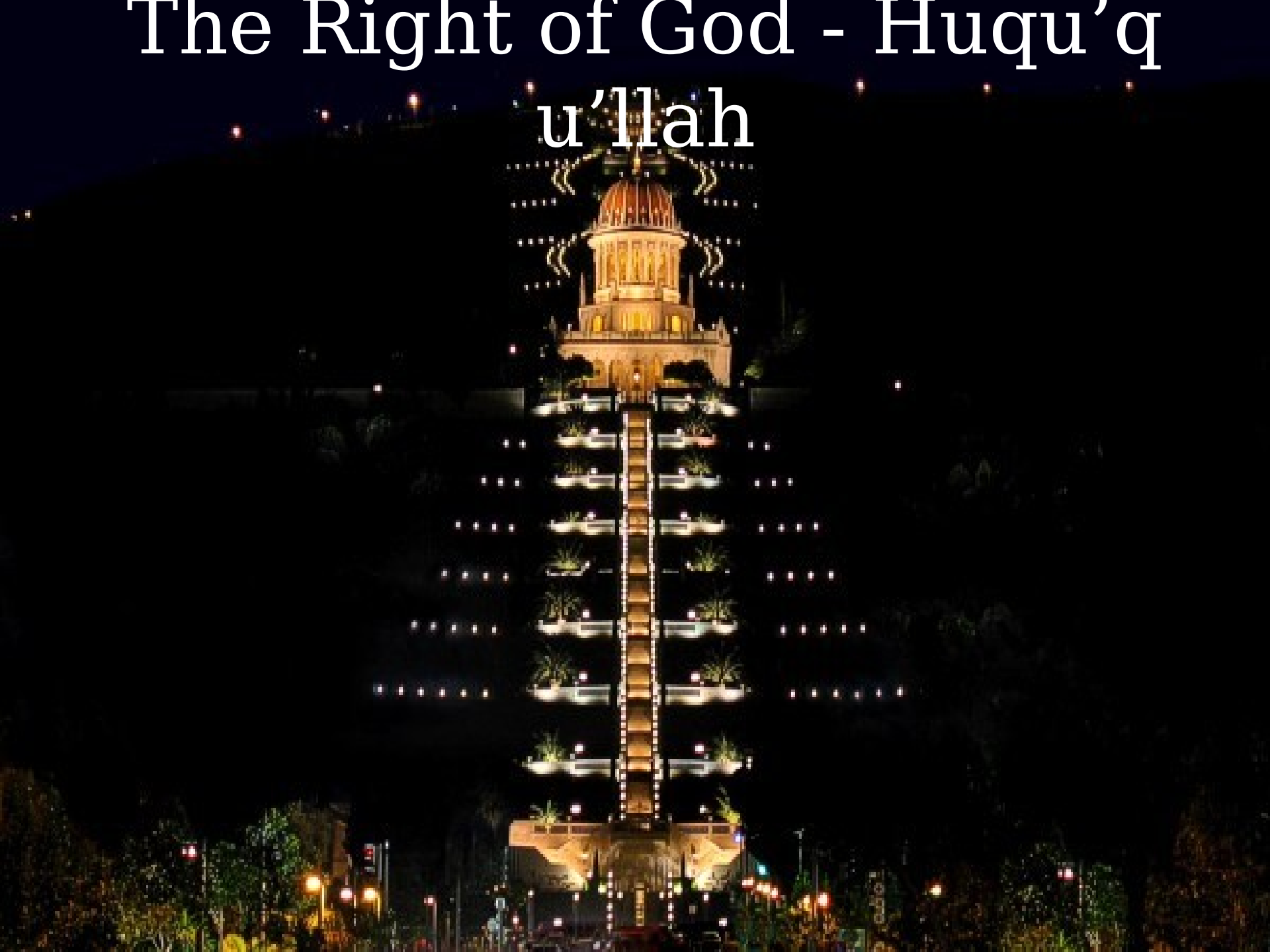
Generosity is an attribute of the human soul and is independent of the degree of ones wealth or poverty. A generous soul gives continuously for the service of others, whether of time, energy, or material resources.

True Nature of Generosity

“These shall labour ceaselessly, by day and by night, shall heed neither trials nor woe, shall suffer no respite in their efforts, shall seek no repose, shall disregard all ease and comfort, and, detached and unsullied, shall consecrate every fleeting moment of their lives to the diffusion of the divine fragrance and the exaltation of God's holy Word.”

-Abdu'l-Baha-

The Right of God - Huqu'q u'llah



The Right of God - Huqu'q u'llah

“Should anyone acquire one hundred mithqa’ls of gold, nineteen mithqa’ls thereof are God’s and to be rendered unto Him, the Fashioner of earth and heaven . Take Heed, O people, lest ye deprive yourselves of so great a bounty.”

-Kitab-I-Aqdas-

The Right of God - Huqu'qu'llah

“The payment of Huqu'qu'llah is one of the essential spiritual obligations of the people of Baha' which has been revealed in the most Holy Book by the Pen of Glory. Therefore the friends should separate the account of Huqu'qu'llah from that of their other contributions.”

-Universal House of Justice
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The Right of God - Huqu'q u'llah

“...there lie concealed in this command, mysteries and benefits which are beyond the comprehension of anyone save God...”

-Baha'u'llah-

The Nature & Essence of Baha'i Law

“Think not that We have revealed unto you a mere code of laws. Nay, rather, We have unsealed the choice Wine with the fingers of might and power.”

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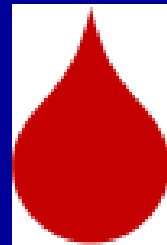
Baha'u'llah-

The Nature & Essence of Baha'i Law

“The Tongue of My power hath, from the heaven of My omnipotent glory, addressed to My creation these words: ‘Observe My commandments, for the love of My beauty.’”

-Kita'b-i-Aqdas-

Baha'i Fund



Baha'i Fund - A Privilege

“ There is a profound aspect to the relationship between a believer and the Fund, which holds true irrespective of his or her economic condition. When a human soul accepts Baha'u'llah as the Manifestation of God for this age and enters into the divine Covenant, ... he becomes a co-worker in the Cause of God and receives the bounty of being permitted to devote his material possessions, no matter how meager, to the work of the Faith. Giving to the fund, therefore, is a spiritual privilege, not open to those who have not accepted Baha'u'llah, of which no

Baha'i Fund - Both A Responsibility & Bounty

“It is both a responsibility and a source of bounty. This is an aspect of the Cause which, we feel, is an essential part of the basic teaching and deepening of new believers. The importance of contributing resides in the degree of sacrifice of the giver, the spirit of devotion with which the contribution is made and the unity of the friends in this service; these attract the confirmations of God and enhance the dignity and self-respect of the contributors.”

Covenant

“A Covenant in the religious sense is a binding agreement between God and man, whereby God requires of man certain behavior in return for which He guarantees certain blessings, or whereby He gives man certain bounties in return for which He takes from those who accept them an undertaking to behave in a certain way”.

Attitude Toward Giving to Baha'i Funds

- “Constitutes an act of spiritual discipline which is an intrinsic element of the devotional life of the individual.”
- “No believer should be unaware of the privilege of contributing to ...”
- “Strengthens the connection between the believer and the Cause, and enhances his sense of identification with it.”

Attitude Toward Giving to Baha'i Funds

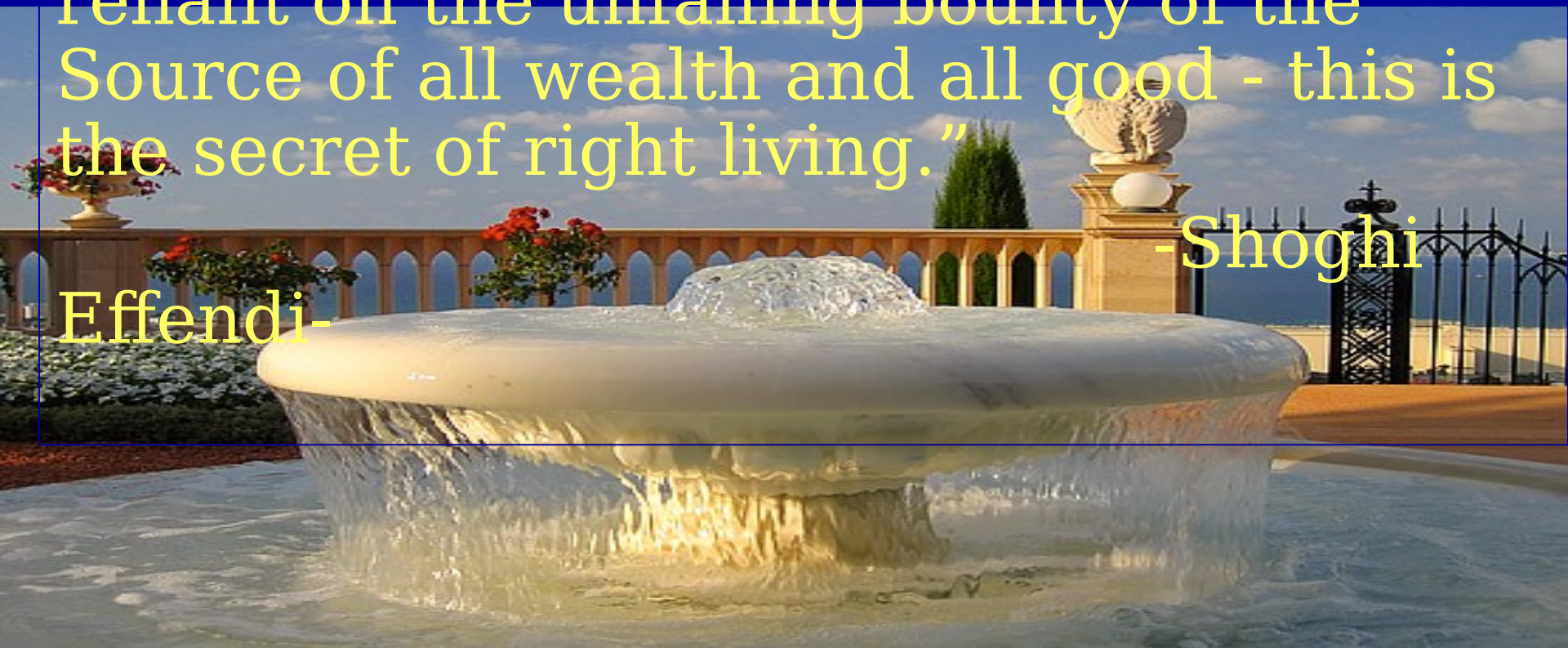
- “A service that every believer can render”
- “A practical mean and effective way whereby every believer can test the measure and character of this faith”
- “There can be no limit to one's contributions...The more one can give the better it is, especially when such offerings necessitate the sacrifice of other wants and desires on the part of the donor.”



A Must Attitude – Secret of Right Living

“We must be like the fountain or spring that is continually emptying itself of all that it has and is continually being refilled from an invisible source. To be continually giving out for the good of our fellows undeterred by fear of poverty and reliant on the unfailing bounty of the Source of all wealth and all good - this is the secret of right living.”

-Shoghi Effendi-



Three Essential Elements

- Universal participation
- Give regularly
- Give generously and sacrificially

Universal Participation

“All the friends of God .. should contribute to the extent possible, however modest their offering may be. God does not burden a soul beyond its capacity. Such contributions must come from all centres and all believers.”

-Abdu'l-Baha-

Universal Participation Takes Priority

“The friends should be made to appreciate the benefits which come from regular and systematic contributions to the National Fund. The amount of the contribution is not as important as universal participation.”

-The Universal House

Thankful in Adversity...

“Now it is upon us ordinary men and women that He has conferred the inestimable bounty of raising up the Kingdom of God on earth. Service to God and His Cause is the heart of the life of every true believer and



Every One Counts...

“It is a sacred obligation of every conscientious and faithful servant of Baha’u’llah who desires to see His Cause advance, to contribute freely and generously for the increase of the Fund.”

-*Shoghi*

Effendi-

Be Generous in Prosperity...

“It is of the utmost importance that these friends, who now enjoy a degree of affluence beyond that of their less fortunate brethren elsewhere, recognize that their sacrificial response to the appeal for funds should be commensurate with their means. The turbulent events of recent years amply demonstrate how rapidly economic conditions can change, bringing deprivation and loss to those who felt secure in the midst of their materials possessions.”

Be Generous in Prosperity...

“In particular, those believers who have been blessed with material resources beyond those necessary for their essential needs should ponder deeply the responsibilities resting upon them at this time when the requirements of the Cause are so pressing.”

-The Universal House of Justice
, May 25, 1999-

Not Only Participate, Give Regularly

“In reviewing the present condition of the Faith and its needs, we are impelled to call upon you to initiate sustained endeavour to engender in all components of the worldwide Baha’i community a deeper consciousness of the spiritual obligation of every believer to contribute regularly to the Baha’i Funds”.

The Universal House of Justice, 17 So

Not Only Participate, Give Regularly & Sacrificially

“The continual expansion of the Faith and the diversification of the activities of Baha’i communities make it more and more necessary for every believer to ponder carefully his responsibilities and contribute as much and as regularly as he or she can.”

-Universal House of
Justice-

Sacred Responsibility – Give Regularly & Sacrificially

“To ensure the uninterrupted expansion of the Faith and to sustain the increasingly diversified activities for Baha’i communities, it is vital for every believer to consider in a prayerful manner his sacred responsibilities to contribute sacrificially and regularly to the Funds of the Faith. All must contribute, whether rich or poor, for it is a

“sacred obligation.”

Self-sacrifice Disregards Resources

“All, no matter how modest their resources, must participate. Upon the degree of self-sacrifice involved in these individual contributions will directly depend the efficiency and the spiritual influence which these nascent administrative institutions, called into being through the power of Baha’u’llah and by virtue of the design conceived by the Centre of His Covenant, will exert. A sustained and strenuous effort must henceforth be made by the rank and file of the avowed upholders of the Faith. “

-Shoghi Effendi-

During Days of Plenty....

“We should not let financial considerations hamper our work and discourage us in rendering our services. Giving lavishly during days of plenty cannot be termed sacrifice. It applies only to our activities when depression and economic difficulties seem to block the way ..”

-Shoghi

Universal Participation with Regularity & Sacrifice

“Unless the flow of donations is regularly maintained by means of generous and continual support by all the believers, individually and collectively, the National Fund will never be able to meet the needs .. of the Cause.”

Throughout the Years to Come...

“The devoted
followers of
Baha’u’llah have ..
every opportunity to
contribute regularly
and sacrificially to the
work of the Cause. ..
To support the Baha’i
Funds is an integral
part of the Baha’i way
of life. The need is
not only now but



Contributions

To Whom do we Contribute?

- Local Spiritual Assembly
- State branch of National Fund
- National Spiritual Assembly
- Continental
- International

All Funds can be given directly or routed through Local Spiritual Assembly or State/Regional Bahá'í Council

Financial Planning

- Simplify Lifestyle
- Avoid borrowing
- Avoid idleness
- Develop methods to systemize records of Income & Expenses
- Determine essential & non essential expenses
- Tap your own potential and resources, be creative in using what you already have, acquire new skills constantly.
- Saving is earning
- Invest wisely
- Develop habit of contribution
- Plan your future E.g. Education, Marriage, Old age, Medical
- Avoid wasting due to lack of proper planning
- Pay bills on time to avoid penalties

6 Steps towards Enhanced Contributions

Where am I As a Contributor	How Can I Improve ?
1. Not Yet a Contributor	Start being Contributor
2. Special Event Contributor	All Event Contributor
3. Irregular & Small	Regular & small
4. Regular & Small	Regular & substantial
5. Regular & Substantial	Regular & Significant

PRESSING

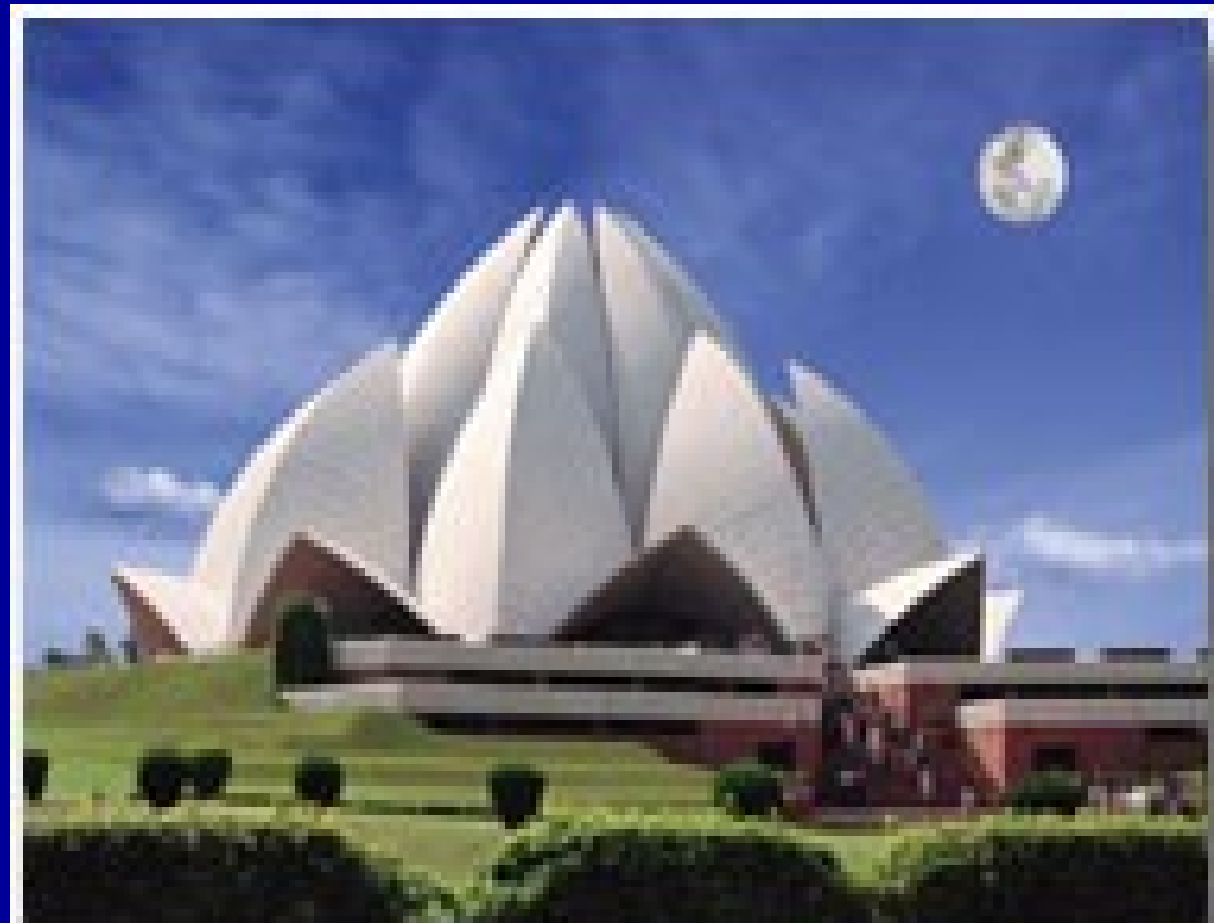
**NEEDS OF THE NA
TIONAL BAHÁ'Í FU
ND**

National Fund – The Bedrock

“As the activities of the....Baha’i community expand, ...the Institution of the National Fund, the bedrock on which all other Institutions must necessarily rest and be established, acquires added importance, and should be increasingly supported by the entire body of the believers, both in their individual capacities, and through their collective efforts, whether organized as groups or as local Assemblies. The supply of funds, in support of the National Treasury, constitutes, ... the life-blood of those nascent institutions which you are laboring to erect.

Silent Teacher is yearning for the Funds

Only 7% of the expenses are covered by the contributions received between 1st April and 30th September



Measure of our faith

“...Contributions to this Fund constitute, in addition, a practical and effective way whereby every believer can test the measure and character of his faith, and prove in deeds the intensity of his devotion and attachment to the Cause. “



He, verily, will aid everyone that aideth Him, and will remember everyone that remembereth Him. To this beareth witness this Tablet that hath shed the splendour of the loving kindness of your Lord, the All-glorious, the All-compelling.”

-Baha'u'll

ah-



Until a being setteth his foot in the plane of sacrifice, he is bereft of every favour and grace; and this plane of sacrifice is the realm of dying to the self, that the radiance of the living God may then shine forth.

Covenant - A Promise

“O Friends of God!

Be ye assured that in place of these contributions, your agriculture, your industry and your commerce will be blessed by manifold increases, with goodly gifts and bestowals. .. There is no doubt that the Living Lord will abundantly confirm those who expend their wealth in His path.”

-Abdu’

Time Does Not Stop...

Our lot, dear brothers and sisters,

Does not every one of us therefore have a divine obligation to fulfill, a sacred duty to perform .. ?

Time does not stop, does not wait. With every passing hour a fresh affliction strikes at a distracted humanity. Dare we linger?

-Ridvan 155

B.E.-

Irresistible Opportunities...

“We, the scattered bands of His loyal servants, have thus come again to a time of irresistible opportunities – opportunities to teach His Cause, to build up His wondrous System, to provide sacrificially the urgently needed materials means on which the progress and execution of spiritual activities inevitably depend.

-Ridvan

2002-

A Yearning ...

“I am waiting, eagerly waiting for these holy ones to appear; and yet, how long will they delay their coming? My prayer and ardent supplication, at eventide and at dawn, is that these shining stars may soon shed their radiance upon the world, that their sacred countenances may be unveiled to mortal eyes, that the hosts of divine assistance may achieve their victory, and the billows of grace, rising from His oceans above, may flow upon all mankind.”

-Abd'ul-Baha-